

like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Hillsdale United Methodist Church for its outstanding record of service to the people of my congressional district for the past half century.

The Hillsdale United Methodist Church's mission is to "celebrate God's gifts as an accepting community, inviting all people to explore and live out new beginnings and dimensions in faith." The church's devotion to this credo of acceptance is clearly demonstrated by its welcoming attitude and its numerous and active community outreach programs. Some of these many programs include a Tutor Learning Center, the sponsorship of Boy Scout Troop and Cub Pack 27, YANSY (Young and Not So Young—an adult social group with monthly meetings and activities), and Samaritan House, which collects food and monthly donations for low-income residents in the area.

The Hillsdale United Methodist Church has also sponsored two refugee families and, as a service to the immigrant community, holds a Tongan language service every Sunday afternoon. In fact, five years after Hillsdale United Methodist welcomed its first Tongan members in 1966, the Tongan Methodist Church began in the United States at the Hillsdale United Methodist building. In 1993 the Fale Hufanga United Methodist Church began in San Carlos. Hillsdale United Methodist Church's Tongan members are still active in this church and recently resumed a Tongan language service.

I would like to invite my colleagues to join me in extending congratulations for the manifold achievements of the Hillsdale United Methodist Church over the last 50 years. The church's generosity and exemplary civic virtues have favorably impacted the lives of innumerable people in my congressional district—men and women, children and adults, American citizens as well as immigrants and refugees. I would like to express my personal gratitude for the outstanding work of the church, and I anticipate with great pleasure all that the church will accomplish in the new millennium.

#### RECOGNITION OF FAIRFAX COUNTY URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

**HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 29, 1999*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, my colleague, Mr. DAVIS of Virginia, and I are honored to extend our deepest admiration and sincere thanks to the 92 members of the Fairfax County Urban Search and Rescue Team in their courageous response mission to help the people in Toulou, Taiwan, following the massive earthquake there on September 20.

Fairfax County is one of the few localities in our country which has trained and authorized a search and rescue team that can be deployed at a moment's notice to deal with crisis situations anywhere in the world. Less than an hour after the Office of Foreign Disaster As-

sistance activated the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department's Urban Search and Rescue Team to assist in the international effort, the team was mobilized and ready for deployment; ready to leave their families, friends and loved ones. We understand that this was the team's ninth mission—nine times they have left their families and homes to answer the "International 911" call.

What's most remarkable is that the firefighters on this team volunteered to be part of this specially trained unit, which is on the front lines, working round the clock, going into perilous situations—whether natural disasters or terrorist-inspired—driven by self-sacrifice to help save lives. Each member of this team has shown extraordinary heroism.

We are very proud of each and every member of the Fairfax County Urban Search and Rescue Team. They truly are heroes and deserve to be recognized.

The U.S. Congress and all of America salute the following members of the Fairfax County Urban Search and Rescue Team:

Chris Bastin, James Bernanzani, William Bertone, Greg Bunch, David Conrad, Sean Evans, Thomas Feehan, Tom Griffin, Mark Guditus, Andrew Hubert, Matt Nacy, Clyde Pittard, Mark Plunkett, Scott Smith, Rex Strickland, Jim Walsh, Kent Watts, Robert Zoldos, Daniel Bickham, Edward Brinkley, Clyde Buchanan, John Chabal, James Chinn, Kevin Dabney, Kurt Hoffman, Joseph Kaleda, Joseph Knerr, Randall Leatherman, Evan Lewis, Craig Luecke, Glenn Mason, Joe Meritt, Gary Morin, Gery Morrison, Dewey Perks, Michael Regan, Michael Tamillow, David Taylor, James Tolson, Jack Walmer, Jerome Williams, Barry Anderson, Donald Booth, Gary Bunch, Carlton Burkhammer, Brian Cloyd, Michael Davis, Jeffrey Donaldson, Michael Istvan, Mark Lucas, John Mayers, Rich McKinney, Wayne Reedy, Bill Reedy, Michael Reilly, Charles Ruble, Mike Stone, Ruben Almaguer, Marilyn Arwe, Joe Barbera, William Barker, Tony Beale, Bill Berger, Jack Brown, Jennifer Brown, Mike Canfield, Paul Carlin, Steve Catlin, Carol Chan, Tom Cole, Robert Dube, Garrett Dyer, Dr. French, Sonja Heritage, Brooke Holt, Gerald Jaskulski, Mike Keeler, Anthony MacIntyre, Paul Majarowitz, Chuck Mills, Susan Mingle, Richard Owens, Dean Sherick, Earl Shuggart, Dallas Slomp, Jim Strickland, Nate Smith, Lorenzo Thrower, Dean Tills, Steve Weissman, Steve Willey, John Tung.

#### HONORING OLIVER BIRCKHEAD ON RECEIVING THE FIRST ANNUAL CINCINNATI BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION AWARD

**HON. ROB PORTMAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 29, 1999*

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Oliver Birkhead, who will receive the First Annual Cincinnati Brain Injury Association Award. Mr. Birkhead's community leadership on children's issues will be recognized on October 1, 1999, at a dinner that will benefit Cincinnati's Children's Hospital Medical Center.

Traumatic brain injury is the leading cause of acquired disability and death among children. Each year, more than one million children sustain brain injuries, most commonly from sports injuries caused by bicycling, skiing, diving, or playground falls. Brain injury is also the most common cause of mortality in young adult Americans under the age of 45. Depending on the type and severity of the injury, rehabilitation may restore crucial skills that are necessary to lead a more normal life.

Oliver Birkhead is well known for his distinguished career in banking. He was born in Brooklyn, New York, and graduated from Nichols College in Dudley, New Hampshire and Stonier Graduate School of Banking at Rutgers University. Ollie entered the banking business in 1937 with the Peoples National Bank and Trust Company in White Plains, New York. In 1942, Ollie entered the U.S. Army Air Corps, where he served until 1946. He then resumed his career in banking, and was appointed Assistant National Bank Examiner in the Second District of New York by the Comptroller of the Currency. Ollie joined Chemical Bank in 1948, and in 1951, he joined the Central Trust Company, now PNC Bank, in Cincinnati. Ollie rose to the position of Vice Chairman and Director of PNC until he retired from the Board in 1989. He has served as a Board Member of the Union Central Life Insurance Company; the Cincinnati Gas and Electric Company (now CInergy); the Manhattan Life Insurance Company; and the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland.

A committed community leader, Ollie has served on the Executive Committee of the Cincinnati Art Museum; as Vice Chairman, Advisory Board member, and Life Member of the Salvation Army; and as a board member of the Cincinnati Council of World Affairs, the Boys Club of Cincinnati, and the Cincinnati Association of the Blind. He also served in leadership positions with United Way of Cincinnati. Along the way, Ollie made many friends, and I am proud to be among them.

We congratulate Ollie Birkhead as he receives this prestigious honor.

#### HONORING JOANN WARD

**HON. THOMAS E. PETRI**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 29, 1999*

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to JoAnn Ward, executive director of the Fond du Lac, Wisconsin Convention and Visitors Bureau, who will retire this Friday, October 1 after more than 22 years of service.

As Bureau executive, JoAnn's job has included marketing the city of Fond du Lac and its environs as a desirable tourist and convention destination. It is a task she has accomplished so well, and with such creativity and leadership, that it can be said with no exaggeration that her stamp has left a lasting imprint on the character of the community.

The considerable economic impact from tourism and convention dollars on the Fond du Lac area during her tenure is a significant and tangible result of JoAnn Ward's efforts. But perhaps more telling than the bottom-line success story are the personal characteristics that